

IN RECOGNITION OF BENJAMIN
ROSENBAUM

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude and best wishes to a highly valued member of my staff who after almost 9 years will be departing my office this week. After previously working in the Senate, Ben Rosenbaum, a Florida Gator, joined my team as a Senior Legislative Assistant and worked his way to Deputy Chief of Staff. Anyone who has known and had the pleasure of working with Ben during his fourteen years in public service can attest to his depth of knowledge, breadth of commitment, and unflappable positivity. No one knows transportation and nuclear waste issues like Ben. Nevada is fortunate to have had Ben protecting its interests and serving its people. He will be sorely missed by all of us who wish him the best on the next leg of his journey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 387 and YEA on Roll Call No. 388.

FRANCIS PADILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Francis Padilla, District Director of the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Colorado for her dedication and service to the people of the State of Colorado. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Francis went above and beyond by participating in many of my Telephone Town Halls to educate my constituents about small business support and resources.

Francis has served the constituents of Colorado in her current role since 2017. As District Director, she is responsible for directing the expansion and delivery of SBA's various loan and business training services throughout the State of Colorado. Prior to her current position, she was the Deputy District Director where she led the Entrepreneurial Development and Lender Relations divisions in the Colorado office and managed the agency's relationships with financial institutions, resource partners, local government officials, and economic development organizations. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Diana provided timely updates related to small businesses relief programs and made herself available to my staff and my constituents around the clock. Her insights and knowledge were invaluable to my constituents and small businesses in our communities.

It is because of local heroes like Francis that our state has been able to support small businesses and keep many of them afloat during this unprecedented time. I thank Francis Padilla for her service and her sacrifice during this difficult time, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as we work to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR WILSON
"EDDIE" BARBER OF EMERALD
ISLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a devoted public servant in our community who will retire at the end of this year, Mayor Wilson "Eddie" Barber of Emerald Isle, North Carolina. A selfless and dedicated minister and town Mayor, Mr. Barber has been in the service of others for the past 40 years.

Beginning in 1969, Mayor Barber commenced his service as a minister performing services throughout eastern North Carolina until 2015. Nearing the end of his ministerial years, Mayor Barber soon devoted his career to public service, where he served as a member on the Emerald Isle Land Use Steering Committee and Emerald Isle Planning Board from 2004 until 2013. Concurrently, from 2009 until 2013, he served as Vice-Chair of the Planning Board. During this time, Mayor Barber was a tenured and established public servant with many accomplishments under his belt and a name recognized by everyone in Emerald Isle.

After years of civil service on municipal boards and committees, Mayor Barber was elected Mayor of Emerald Isle in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. Currently, Mayor Barber is a member of the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority, and was the past Chair of the Down East RPO, and past Chair Person of the Crystal Coast Mayors Association. He has also been involved with the Emerald Isle Business Association, Hope for the Warriors, and served on the Board of Directors of Methodist University. As a tenured mayor, Mayor Barber was able to allocate \$37 Million towards beach re-nourishment initiatives at no expense to tax payers. He and the board also made sure to work closely and diligently to keep Emerald Isle's reputation as a welcoming and family friendly beach town. This was all accomplished through several hardships that struck the community such as Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Dorian, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the retirement of this incredible and noble man and wishing Mayor Eddie Barber a happy retirement from his life of public service.

HONORING MARK LARET

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Laret, retiring President

and Chief Executive Officer of the University of California San Francisco Health and a treasured friend. The San Francisco Giants recently announced that Buster Posey is retiring. For those who understand Mark Laret and his role at UCSF Health, the departure of Mark is equally earthshaking.

Mark Laret is a 1980 Regents Scholar graduate of UCLA. He earned his Master's in Political Science from the University of Southern California. He joined UCLA Medical Center in 1980 and worked his way up the ranks, and then transferred to UC Irvine. After Irvine, he came to UCSF and never left.

Mark arrived at UCSF Health after a disappointing attempt to merge with Stanford Health. At a time when the two organizations decided to end their merger, and many saw UCSF Health as the weaker partner, Mark took an \$86 million deficit at the merged entity and produced a turnaround for UCSF Health. It wasn't easy, and he later remarked, "I think when you are faced with a very difficult turnaround situation, the first thing you do is listen, and let people vent, hear them out—hear their take on what went wrong, and what caused the issue . . . [hear] what they're proud of about the place they work, what they think those strong core assets are. What do they want to see change, what's their hope for the future?" What faculty and labor wanted was new management.

A new executive team was recruited, and it operates under what Mark calls PRIDE (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence). UCSF's commitment to quality patient care, operational efficiency, deep employee engagement, and health equity were formalized. Although it would take another 14 years, equity remained a core value and was made concrete when UCSF acquired Oakland Children's Hospital, now known as UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland. A new capital campaign to update that campus has begun.

UCSF Health also focused on regional care and an expansion of research. To expand its research capacity, Mark and his board created an entirely new and state of the art campus at Mission Bay. From the remains of railroad tracks and industrial decay, UCSF Mission Bay rose to offer globally competitive research space and hospitals that serve the entire San Francisco Bay Area. \$1.6 billion was needed by an institution that only a few years earlier was teetering on the edge of financial ruin. Mark is a visionary, and philanthropists from throughout the Bay Area supported that vision with \$600 million in donations, matched by \$700 million in borrowing and other funds. Today, the Mission Bay campus includes Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco, Bakar Cancer Hospital, Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital, and the Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building. From birth to passing, relying heavily upon one of the globe's premier research and training programs, UCSF Health provides first rate health care for the people of our region.

I have known Mark Laret for decades dating back to my years in the state legislature where we worked together after the unwinding of the Stanford merger. The first district that I represented in Congress had the UCSF Parnassus campus at its outer boundary. I was thrilled and spoke regularly to Mark and his leadership team about the vision for UCSF

and its role in the Bay Area. He was an especially important advisor during our consideration of the Affordable Care Act. He was always laser focused on providing the best possible care for as many Americans as possible while maneuvering the complex financing of our health care system.

UCSF is a health machine built to fight a global pandemic. From early research into the technology that led to the vaccines to testing capacity and early healthcare directives, having UCSF Health in San Francisco fighting SARS-CoV-2 and its deadly progeny, COVID-19, likely saved thousands of lives in our region. Mark Laret has been the voice of authority, compassion, and leadership during this crisis and in every discussion about quality health care reform. In the many years that he has advised me, he was always trustworthy, informative, and persuasive. I have the deepest respect and admiration for his intellect and integrity.

From a small research and treatment campus on a hill and a few isolated campuses elsewhere, to a bustling regional powerhouse and global standard setter, UCSF Health prospered tremendously under the tenure of Mark Laret. After 21 years at the helm of this prestigious healthcare institution, it's now time to say goodbye to an historic leader. Let it be known that a humanitarian is retiring who can now spend more of his time with his beloved wife Jan Laret and their son Parker and daughter Casey. His duty having been accomplished with grace, his rest is justly earned.

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 1ST AS WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize December 1, 2021, as World AIDS Day. This is the 33rd year that the world will come together to raise awareness about preventive measures for HIV and AIDS.

World AIDS Day has been observed globally since 1988, bringing attention to the HIV epidemic and speaking out against the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. This day is a call to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and across the globe. This year's theme of "Ending the HIV Epidemic Equitable Access. Everyone's Voice" emphasizes the significance of working together to achieve an AIDS-free generation. Recent progress for prevention and treatment tools provides us with the unprecedented opportunity to end the epidemic.

Since 2010, deaths from HIV/AIDS have fallen by 48 percent in the United States, but we still have work to do. We must continue to educate and spread awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention measures. Of the approximate 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States, 13 percent do not know they have HIV. It is imperative to implement programs at the local level to diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond to HIV. Together, we can end this.

This is also a time to remember those we lost to HIV-related illnesses. The actions of groups across the country have helped bring

us closer to our common goal. This year, the Rio Grande Valley's own Basilica of Our Life San Juan del Valle will be commemorating the lives lost to HIV/AIDS and marking the 30th anniversary of this event founded by Francisco Mendez.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the hard work of those in South Texas and across the world to end the HIV epidemic and to recognize December 1, 2021, as World AIDS Day.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join residents and city leaders past and present in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Royal Oak, Michigan.

On November 8, 1921, residents voted to adopt a city charter, turning the then Village of Royal Oak into the City of Royal Oak. At that time, they elected a mayor and a city commission, who brought the City of Royal Oak to life. The first Mayor of Royal Oak, George Dondero, had previously served the Village of Royal Oak, and later went on to be elected to the 73rd United States Congress.

Over the past century, the City of Royal Oak has undergone a far-reaching transformation, and today is an energetic city filled with businesses, attractions, and almost 60,000 residents. It is now the eighth largest city in Oakland County and has been recognized as one of the most exciting, safest, and best places to live in Michigan. Royal Oak is home to a wonderful public library, Oakland Community College, the Detroit Zoological Park, Beaumont Hospital, and more than 50 public parks for all to enjoy. The City has made significant initiatives towards diversity and inclusion, towards green infrastructure and environmental friendliness, and towards supporting the many small businesses in Royal Oak. On a personal note, Royal Oak is special to my family for another reason—my father, former U.S. Representative Sander Levin, is a longtime resident of the City and, like me, was proud to represent its residents in Congress.

I have no doubt that the next century will bring continued achievements, growth, and prosperity to the City of Royal Oak and its people, and I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the centennial of this vibrant community in Michigan's Ninth District.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ROBERT JAMES HANSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert James Hanson, a resident of La Honda, California, a beloved Menlo Park merchant and a longtime friend.

Bob Hanson was born in Kansas on November 17, 1953, to Vivian and Robert Han-

son, and died on October 4, 2021, in Palo Alto, California. He is survived by his wife, Katie and his three children, Maddie, R.J. and Mathew. He is also survived by his mother, 3 siblings, his beloved granddaughter Agnes and many nephews and nieces.

Bob was a graduate of the University of Kansas and while in college worked at Mister Guys, a job that led him to a successful career in the clothing business. Bob and his wife Katie met while they were both working at the Ralph Lauren store in the Stanford Shopping Center. Bob said they were "struck by the entrepreneurial spirit" and in 1990 they founded Afterwards, a pioneering clothing consignment shop located in the heart of the Menlo Park business district. They later expanded into an adjacent property to sell home furnishings.

Those who knew Bob describe him as warm, friendly, engaging and classy, a wonderful man who always made time to chat. He had exceptional taste, a gentle smile, charm and was always ready with a quick witicism. He was the consummate businessman who always made his clients feel welcome and appreciated. He was all of this and more.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the entire Hanson family. It is my hope that these words and those of so many others will bring solace to them as they grieve the loss of this wonderful man.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE HONORS DAN MALDONADO

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, in every generation, there are people whose names may not make the paper every day, but whose actions and legacy make an immeasurable impact felt by the entire community. Dan Maldonado is one of those people. In honoring him, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute is recognizing his lifelong dedication to public service and his trailblazing record, and ensuring that his contributions are remembered for generations to come.

If there's one word that can describe Dan, "vision" comes to mind. He was one of the first—if not the first—Latino Chiefs of Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also helped create the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO). These groups have grown from their humble roots to become leaders in amplifying the organized voices of Latino public officials and cementing the Latino community's place in the public sphere. In large part, we have Dan to thank for that.

Dan's service didn't end with Capitol Hill. He also worked in the Carter Administration as the Director of Legislation for ACTION/Peace Corps, helping to promote America's image abroad and cultivate our country's next generation of leaders.

There is one story in particular that highlights the kind of person Dan is. In 1982, he served as the Chief of Staff for Latino Congressman Edward Roybal from Los Angeles.